

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending in the present application. Claim 13 was objected to because of informalities. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dinger, U.S. Patent No. 4,084,876. Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Osada, U.S. Patent No. 6,146,217. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dinger in view of Getselis et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,039,597. Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 13 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection due to informalities.

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14 have been canceled. Claim 13 has been amended. New claims 15-20 have been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Objection to claim 13

Claim 13 was objected to due to informalities. Claim 13 has now been amended to recite the limitations of claim 5, namely that the support defines a hole and that an edge of the hole forms a freestanding edge, and thereby provide the antecedent basis for "the hole". Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out this error.

Withdrawal of the objection to claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dinger, U.S. Patent No. 4,084,876. Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Osada, U.S. Patent No. 6,146,217. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11 and 14 have now been canceled.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 3-5, 7-11 and 14, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Dinger or Osada is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dinger in view of Getselis et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,039,597. Claim 12 has now been canceled.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Dinger in view of Getselis et al. is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 6 has now been canceled in favor of independent claim 13. Independent claim 13 as now amended incorporates all of the limitations of claim 6 and its base claim 1, as well as intervening claim 5. It is respectfully submitted that claim 13 as now amended is therefore allowable.

New claims 15-20


New claims 15-20 have been added depending from claim 13. New claims 15-17 mirror canceled claims 3, 4 and 12, respectively. New independent claim 19 recites the limitations of claim 13 except that claim 19 recites that the clamping edge is "aligned with the hole" rather than "aligned with a central portion of the hole". New claims 19 and 20 mirror canceled claims 3 and 12, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 15-20, like claim 13, are patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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